

Medicine: fremanezumab (brand name: Ajoovy®)

TEVA UK Limited

The Scottish Medicines Consortium (SMC) has assessed fremanezumab for the prevention of migraine in adults who have at least four migraine days per month. This document summarises the SMC decision and what it means for patients.

What has SMC said?

After careful consideration, SMC has accepted fremanezumab for use in certain patients (restricted use).

The restriction means that fremanezumab may be used in patients with chronic or episodic migraine (defined below) who have failed to respond to at least three other preventative treatments.

This SMC advice takes account of the benefits of a confidential discount that improves the cost-effectiveness of fremanezumab.

What does SMC's decision mean for patients?

If your healthcare professional thinks that fremanezumab for use as described above is the right medicine for you, you should be able to have the treatment on the NHS in Scotland.



What is fremanezumab for?

Fremanezumab is used for the prevention of migraine. Migraines are usually severe headaches often felt as a throbbing pain at the side of the head. Other symptoms can include disturbed vision, sensitivity to light, sound and smells, feeling sick and vomiting. The high frequency and severity of migraine symptoms can be extremely debilitating and may have a substantial impact on day-to-day and work related activities.

Chronic migraine is a particularly severe type of migraine where sufferers have more than fifteen migraine days a month. Episodic migraine is another type, where people have migraine days every month but less frequently than in chronic migraine.

How does fremanezumab work?

A protein called calcitonin gene related product (CGRP) is involved in causing the symptoms of migraine. Fremanezumab blocks the activity of CGRP, helping to prevent the symptoms.

How does SMC make its decision?

SMC carefully considers every new medicine to make sure it benefits patients and is considered to be an acceptable use of the limited resources in NHSScotland.

To do this SMC consider the following:

- Evidence from the company about how well the medicine works compared with current treatments available in Scotland, in relation to how much they will cost to buy and administer.
- Information from patient groups about the potential impact of the medicine on patients and carers.
- Advice from healthcare professionals about any benefits of the new medicine compared to current treatment, along with how the new medicine is likely to be used.

When SMC assesses a medicine it takes account of the needs of all patients in NHSScotland, not just those who may be treated with the medicine under consideration.

You can find more detailed information about the SMC assessment of fremanezumab by looking at the SMC Detailed Advice Document (SMC2226).

More information

The organisations below can provide more information and support for people with migraine and their families. SMC is not responsible for the content of any information provided by external organisations.

The Migraine Trust



<https://www.migrainetrust.org/>



0203 9510 150

National Migraine Centre



<https://www.nationalmigrainecentre.org.uk/>



0207 251 3322

You can find out more about fremanezumab in the European public assessment report (EPAR) summary for the public by searching for the medicine name on the European Medicines Agency (EMA) website.



<http://www.ema.europa.eu>